

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 - 19, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 20 - 29:

20. (New) In a fastener having a drive socket for receiving a key driver, the improvement comprising:

the drive socket having a surface defining a plurality of rounded lobes of substantially equal radius located substantially equidistant from a center of the fastener and substantially equidistant circumferentially from each other; and

the drive socket having a corresponding plurality of flat surfaces, each flat surface being located substantially opposite one of the lobes and substantially equidistant from the center of the fastener.

21. (New) The fastener of claim 20, wherein each of the lobes projects inward toward the center of the fastener.

22. (New) The fastener of claim 20, wherein the lobes are positioned to provide a first clearance between an apex of each of the lobes and corresponding surfaces on a key driver inserted into the drive socket, and the flat surfaces are positioned to provide a second clearance between the flat surfaces and corresponding surfaces on the key driver.

23. (New) The fastener of claim 22, wherein:

the first clearance is approximately 0.04 mm (0.0015 inch); and

the second clearance is approximately 0.10 mm (0.0038 inch).

24. (New) In a fastener having a drive socket for receiving a key driver, the improvement comprising:

the drive socket having a first plurality of lobes of substantially equal radius substantially equidistant from a center of the fastener and from each other, each of the lobes of the first plurality including a flat surface which is located adjacent and substantially tangential to the radius portion of the lobe; and

the drive socket having a second plurality of lobes of substantially equal radius substantially equidistant from the center of the fastener and from each other and between the lobes of the first plurality of lobes.

25. (New) The fastener of claim 24, wherein each of the lobes of the first plurality and each of the lobes of the second plurality project inward toward the center of the fastener.

26. (New) The fastener of claim 24, wherein the radii of the lobes of the first plurality and the radii of the lobes of the second plurality are substantially equal.

27. (New) The fastener of claim 24, wherein the distance between the lobes of the first plurality and the center of the fastener and the distance between the lobes of the second plurality and the center of the fastener are substantially equal.

28. (New) The fastener of claim 24, wherein:

the lobes of the first plurality are positioned to provide a clearance between a first apex of each of the lobes of the first plurality and corresponding surfaces on a key driver inserted into the drive socket; and

the lobes of the second plurality are positioned to provide a clearance between a second apex of each of the lobes of the second plurality and corresponding surfaces on the key driver inserted into the drive socket, the clearance between the second apices of the second plurality of lobes and the corresponding surfaces on the key driver being substantially equal to the clearance between the first apices of the first plurality of lobes and the corresponding surfaces on the key driver.

29. (New) The fastener of claim 28, wherein:

the clearance between the first apices of the first plurality of lobes and the corresponding surfaces on the key driver is approximately 0.04 mm (0.0015 inch); and
the clearance between the second apices of the second plurality of lobes and the corresponding surfaces on the key driver is approximately 0.04 mm (0.0015 inch).